

*AI* step d) is accomplished by thickening both said inner (2) and said outer tubular layers.

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## REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted to eliminate multiple dependent claims, particularly improper multiple dependent claims, eliminate reference designations, and to reduce the filing fee.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX TO PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
AMENDED CLAIMS IN U.S. NATIONAL PHASE OF PCT/IB00/00778

1. (Once Amended) Multiple layer reinforced flexible hose comprising at least one first inner tubular layer [(2)] made of extruded plastic material, at least one second outer tubular layer [(3)] made of extruded plastic material, a tubular reinforcement [(4)] made of a textile material interposed between said first [(2)] and said second [(3)] layer, said layers [(2, 3)] being homogeneously joined in correspondence of their mutual contact surface so as to define a wall having an overall predetermined thickness [(S)], an end portion of said wall having an increased thickness along longitudinal portions [(A, B)] of predetermined extensions to thereby provide watertight sealing action with external connection organs, [characterised in that] wherein said increased thickness is substantially constant along the whole extension [(A)] of said longitudinal portions and in that the thickness increase is non-linear towards the free end of said longitudinal portions.

2. (Once Amended) Reinforced flexible hose according to claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein said increased thickness [(S')] is only [localised] localized on said outer tubular layer [(3)].

3. (Once Amended) Reinforced flexible hose according to claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein said increased thickness [(S')] is only [localised] localized on said inner tubular layer [(2)].

4. (Once Amended) Reinforced flexible hose according to claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein said increased thickness [(S')] is [localised] localized on both said outer tubular layer [(3)] and said inner tubular layer [(2)].

5. (Once Amended) Reinforced flexible hose according to claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein said first [(2)] and said second tubular layers [(3)] are [coloured] colored with different pigmentation along their whole extension or along parts thereof.

6. (Once Amended) Reinforced flexible hose according to claim 5, [characterised in that] wherein said pigmentation and [colourings] colorings are substantially uniform and they are differentiated in correspondence of the thickness change of said longitudinal portions [(A, B)] with predetermined extension.

7. (Once Amended) Reinforced flexible hose according to [anyone of the preceding claims] claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein [it] said hose comprises one or more further inner, outer or middle tubular layers, made of plastic material, having technical and/or aesthetic functions.

8. (Once Amended) Reinforced flexible hose according to claim 7, [characterised in that] wherein said one or more further plastic material layers are chosen [in] from the group comprising food compatible, anti-abrasives, UV shielding and ornamental films.

9. (Once Amended) Method for the production of a flexible hose [according to anyone of claims 1 to 8], comprising the following steps:

a) extruding at least one first inner tubular layer [(2)] made of plastic material having a substantially constant advancement speed (V);

b) weaving a tubular reinforcement made of textile fabrics material [(4)] onto [the] an outer surface of said first inner tubular layer [(3)], at the same advancement speed [(V)];

c) extruding at least one second outer tubular layer [(2)] made of plastic material at substantially the same advancement speed [(V)] of said first inner tubular layer [(2)] and said tubular reinforcement [(4)] so as to allow a homogeneous fitting of said layers [(2, 3)] and form a wall having a predetermined thickness [(S)];

d) providing longitudinal portions [(A, B)] having an increased thickness [(S', S'')] in at least one of said first and[/or] second tubular layers [(2, 3)] so as to enhance resistance of the hose in order to [favour] favor a stable mating to hose end joints or to other irrigation accessories; and

e) cutting the hose in correspondence [of] to said longitudinal portions [(A, B)] having increased thickness, [characterised in that] wherein said increased thickness is made substantially constant along the whole extension [(A)] of said longitudinal portions and with non-linear increase toward[s] the free end of said longitudinal portions.

10. (Once Amended) Method according to claim 9, [characterised in that] wherein said step d) is accomplished by means of a change [(ΔV)] in the advancement speed [(V)] for at least one of said tubular layers [(2, 3)] in correspondence [of] to said [layers] portions [(A, B)] having increased thickness, said speed change [(ΔV)] being carried out instantaneously and being subsequently reduced to zero along said longitudinal portions [(A)].

11. (Once Amended) Method according to claim 9, [characterised in that] wherein said step d) is accomplished by means of a change  $[(\Delta Q)]$  in the flow  $[(Q)]$  of extruded material in correspondence of the increase in thickness, said flow change  $[(\Delta Q)]$  being instantaneous.

12. (Once Amended) Method according to [anyone of claims 9 to 11] claim 9, [characterised in that] wherein said [phase] step d) is accomplished by thickening only said first inner tubular layer [(3)].

13. (Once Amended) Method according to [anyone of claims 9 to 12] claim 9, [characterised in that] wherein said [phase] step d) is accomplished by thickening only said second outer tubular layer [(2)].

14. (Once Amended) Method according to [anyone of claims 9 to 12] claim 9, [characterised in that] wherein said [phase] step d) is accomplished by thickening both said inner [(3)] and said outer [(2)] tubular layers.